

Friends of Linn Park

Set-Up and Management

The current group was formally constituted on the 13th July 2017. The group's first AGM was held on 12.09.18. This is our fifth AGM.

The key aim of the group is to protect, improve and promote the green space of Linn Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Our committee and membership base represent a wide range of interests and skills, and this is reflected in the projects and activities we have undertaken.

Membership of Friends of Linn Park is open to all – and we plan more in-person events where you can sign-up. Membership costs a one-off payment of £1. Junior membership costs nothing and is open to all under 14. Members receive a FoLP button badge.

We maintain a website, FriendsofLinnPark.com, an active Facebook Page (Love Linn Park) and Twitter Account (@lovelinnpark).

Funding

Our funding comes from a combination of one-off membership fees; donations, funds raised from community events and grants. Full details of income associated with fundraising activities etc. are presented in our Treasurer's Report.

We have continued with the localgiving subscription which makes it easier to donate to Friends of Linn Park online. This has an annual fee but enables us to benefit from gift aid. We will continue to monitor donations against this cost before renewal.

Donations in the last 12 months include:

- Acorn Trails - £200
- Donations Via Localgiving - £1570 to date

Grants in the last 12 months include;

- Magic Little Grant – People's Postcode Lottery
- Glasgow City Heritage Trust – Funding for Community Memory Project
- Glasgow City Council – Green Park and Open Space Fund (benches and path repairs)

Thank you to everyone who has donated, and who has helped secure these grants – without funding we wouldn't be able to carry out much of our volunteering work.

Projects

We have five projects currently running on an ongoing basis. Information about them can be found on our website – and we welcome any interest in volunteering to help further any of them!

Boxing Clever - Nest Box/Bat Box Project

Butterfly Project

Wildlife Trail Project

Cathcart Castle Project – Community Memory Project

Community Use Project

It's fantastic to see both the **Nest Box** monitoring and the **Butterfly** transects going strong into their fourth year of operation. These citizen science projects have managed to retain and improve their volunteer numbers again. Sharing sightings and nest box numbers is always a highlight with our wider facebook audience.

The **Wildlife Trail** project has managed to achieve a Community Green Flag award for 2022/23. We have now held this for three consecutive years.

The **Cathcart Castle** Project has developed further this year – but has also encountered some set-backs. We have been successful in securing funding for a Community Memory Project which has led to us seeking memories from park users over the years, photographs and other documents to help collate a book. There was also funding awarded from the council to improve the accessibility of the area, however the rockfall from the steep hillside below the castle onto the path below has rather put a spanner in the works. We are keen to ensure the over-all ambition is not lost.

The **Community Use** project has progressed slowly through the year. The Council has now decided against offering a Permission to Use arrangement and would prefer to enter into a lease. As we are not constituted as a charity it will mean our main office bearers signing the lease as individuals. There is an item on the agenda to discuss this proposal.

Events and Other Activity

Throughout this past year we seem to have become involved in more joined-up projects where we can really see a difference being made.

We worked together with Netherlee Primary School and Linn Park Adventure Playground to make some really needed improvements within the Adventure Playground Site. We have continued this work out-with their grounds in the connection into the park itself.

We worked together with W.I.L.D Forest School to combine a really big volunteer day where we made some big path improvements, again extending out-with the park to the connecting routes. Tree planting, tea drinking, some learning and also some cake made the day extremely enjoyable – and we made the papers!

We have managed to re-purpose some benches and place them into the park to improve the accessibility and amenity. We have been successful in receiving funding awards for two more beautiful benches which will enjoy views over the meadows in the park.

We were alerted last year to the presence of Purple hairstreak butterflies within the park – but had to wait till this year to get two confirmed sightings in two different locations. Well done those who persevered to spot them and record them.

We celebrated the official opening of the Magnificent 11 walk which has been the subject of many volunteer sessions – and no doubt will need more to keep it in good condition. It was lovely to mark the achievement of a fully way-marked route which starts and finishes in Linn Park.

We completed the works planned with the Wee Green Grants including placing the five big rocks up at the top of the hill, and then repairing the route the vehicles took to get there. We used a wildflower meadow mix to repair which will hopefully increase the bio-diversity of that area.

We have got more involved in looking after the pond in the park – we protected the membrane with a border of stones, ensured there was a way to get in and out for wildlife, repaired the fence to ensure protection of the area, removed pond weed, cut back brambles and planted oxygenators. We hope to continue improving this area.

We cut and lifted the glade areas of meadow ourselves this year, with some help from TCV, and we have augmented the planting in this area with yellow rattle seed and a mixed seed. We hope to return to growing on seedlings in the near future and to continue to improve the bio-diversity of these areas.

Our Tuesday group has continued throughout the year, improving paths, fitting cross drains, clearing culverts, mending fences, removing invasive species, refreshing the wildlife trail, litter picking, wildflower planting, and many more tasks besides. We have also been well looked after with some delicious home-baking. Thank you so much to everyone who can come along, whether just once or twice, or regularly each week you are making such a difference week-on-week to everyone's enjoyment of the park.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has continued to support us during the last year. We would like to note Gary Linstead and Alison Grieg and also Carol Alex Morrison from Glasgow City Council who have helped to further projects or support volunteer work.

Aspirations

Community Memory Project – We are progressing with our community memory project and look forward to publishing a book of the collection in February next year. This is combined with an over-haul of our web presence to include this new collection.

White Cart Walkway Improvements – The Council has confirmed this is more than maintenance work for them – we would like to propose a joined-up approach to seek funding to really bring the route back to its best.

Cathcart Castle – We are keen to see the existing pathways around the castle safely re-opened. We also seek to progress the project identified to improve access and visibility of the castle within the park. Funding had been identified from the Council and we will be keen to see how this is taken forward.

Parks Heritage – Glasgow University are undertaking a project with Glasgow City Council to explore the heritage and archaeology of parks within the city and have chosen Linn Park as their next subject. We look forward to being involved!

Partnership Working

We have continued to work with many other groups including Netherlee Primary School, Linn Park Adventure Playground, Scottish Badgers, W.I.L.D., the Equestrian Centre, The Conservation Volunteers, Acorn Trails, Friends of Newlands Park, The Ramblers, 91st Glasgow (Netherlee) Beavers and Glasgow City Council.

We look forward to more collaborations in the future – including Pond Life and Simshill and Cathcart Community Council.

Issues in the Park

At our monthly meetings we discuss issues brought to our attention by both FoLP members and members of the public. The most common issue this year has been concern over the area of path now closed off with the fence. We will continue to try and work to ensure this issue is not forgotten and that the path can be opened again safely.

Summary

I always think about this report in my head, and worry about what to put in it, but when it comes to it – the efforts of our volunteers really make it so easy to write. We have done so many things, and there continues to be the appetite to build on this work and to do more. It is lovely to be greeted while working in the park, or to receive comments via social media, as we can see those efforts are more widely appreciated.

I would encourage all of you to ask your friends to join in; ask your neighbours to contribute; share that facebook post; be proud of all our efforts. We want to make sure we have the numbers, and new ideas, to keep us going.

Thank you

List of Events from Sep 31st 2021 to Sep 31st 2022

Tuesday Group – met since the 07.09.21 pretty much every Tuesday it was permitted through the year with numbers varying from 3 to 14.

03.11.21 – Green Flag Award

We finally got our awards flags flying from the flag poles in Linn Park.

26.01.22 – Multi-Generational Volunteer Day – with W.I.L.D

We worked with W.I.L.D Forest School on path improvements, tree planting and litter picking – combined with some learning about Linn Park LNR.

Feb/March 22 – Linn Park Adventure Playground

We worked together with Netherlee Primary School, the volunteers from the playground and with the wider community to raise money for new accessible benches, to re-lay the patio area, to form a new planter, and to develop outdoor educational resources including a wildlife trail.

12.03.22 – Rocks, Rocks and Rocks

We finally placed the last part of our wee green grant plans into the park with the five new rocks placed up at the top of the zig-zag path.

23.04.22 – Coffee Afternoon

We held the first of our coffee afternoon events with some wildlife activities, home baking, and the chance to share memories of the park towards our Community Memory Project.

30.06.22 – MAG 11 – magnificent 11 walk – Official Opening

We were delighted to be involved in the event to formally open the Magnificent 11 walking route which starts and finishes in Linn Park. It was organised by the Glasgow Ramblers and Glasgow City Council.

02.07.22 – Coffee Afternoon

On the parks 101st birthday, we held the second of our coffee afternoon events with some wildlife activities, home baking, and the chance to share memories of the park towards our Community Memory Project.

06.08.22 – Stables Open Day Event

We joined in with the stables to have a stall at their open day event – collecting more memories for the Community Memory Project and sharing the joy of the park with more users.

06.08.22 – Newlands Park Fair

We joined in with the Friends of Newlands Park to have a stall at their fair – collecting more memories for the Community Memory Project and sharing the joy of the park with more users.

18.09.22 – Linn Park Centenary Trail – running event

Acorn Trails returned with this successful running event which started and finished in Linn Park. We offered tea/coffee/sweets at the finish line.